REMARKS

Upon entry of this paper, claim 6 has been amended, no claims have been canceled, and no claims have been added as new claims. Thus, claims 1-7 are presently pending in this application. No new matter has been added.

Applicant gratefully thanks the Examiner for the indication of allowability of claims 1-5 for the reasons noted in the Office Action. Applicant further thanks the Examiner for the identification of several elements deemed relevant to the patentability of claims 6 and 7. In accordance with the Examiner's remarks, Applicant has amended claim 6 to further clarify the present invention. As such, Applicant respectfully submits that all claims pending in the present application are allowable as described herein.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102

Claims 6 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Vartanian (U.S. Patent No. 4,373,132).

Claim 6 has been amended to further clarify that the slide of the device is reciprocally movable. The Examiner has indicated in the Remarks to Arguments that claims 6 and 7 did not require a moveable slide. In accordance with the present invention, the slide is clarified to be movable reciprocally in the accompanying amendment.

Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 of the pending claims has been deemed allowable and includes the elements of "a conveying channel . . . one or more heating devices for heating one of the conveying channel and the material between the admission opening and the discharge opening, and a *slide which is reciprocally movable* . . ." (see claim 1). Accordingly, the clarification in the method claim 6 of the present amendment that the slide is reciprocally movable cannot be asserted to be new matter requiring a new search.

As confirmed in the Office Action, Vartanian does not include the element of a moveable slide. Thus, Applicant submits the present application claims 6 and 7, as amended herein, are allowable over the cited art.

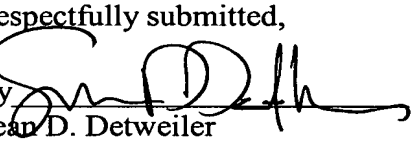
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance. Applicant courteously solicits allowance of the claims in the form of a Notice of Allowance. Should there be any outstanding issues of patentability following the entry of this response, a telephone interview is respectfully requested to resolve such issues.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this statement. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 12-0080, under Order No. HHI-040US from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: September 30, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Sean D. Detweiler
Registration No.: 42,482
LAHIVE & COCKFIELD, LLP
28 State Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02109
(617) 227-7400
(617) 742-4214 (Fax)
Attorney/Agent For Applicant